

So I am glad that on a bipartisan basis we were finally able to fight to bring this minimum wage bill to the floor, to get it on the floor, to defeat the crippling amendments that would have removed much of the coverage of the minimum wage, and to pass it on the House floor.

It goes now to the Senate. My hope is that there it will move equally as quickly, and then to the President for his signature.

Mr. Speaker, it is a good day that the minimum wage finally looks like it may be increased this year.

#### RESIDENTS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia [Ms. NORTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I recognize that the day has been much devoted to a discussion of the minimum wage. This member is trying her best to make certain that more than minimum wage residents continue to live in the District. I have just come back from the other body, where Senator CONNIE MACK, the chairman of the Joint Economic Committee, has just introduced the DC Economic Recovery Act on the Senate side, the bill I introduced on April 15 on the House side, in order to give a tax reduction to the residents of the District of Columbia, who are fleeing in awesome numbers.

The District does not have a State, so any tax incentive—tax cut will have to come from this body. The alternative to a tax cut to help to keep middle-income residents in the city is annual increases of a very significant magnitude in the Federal payment. The reason that would be necessary is that the Constitution requires the Congress of the United States to maintain the Capital of the United States. For over 200 years, it is the residents of the Capital of the United States who have maintained the capital, but their flight in great numbers and the insolvency of the city put the capital of the United States at risk.

No one can doubt that this is the case if you look at the chart before us. The tax base is already gone. Eighty-three percent of tax filers have an income of less than \$50,000. To quote Senator MACK:

Washington's situation is desperate. Middle-income residents have been fleeing the city in startling numbers.

Senator MACK was not alone in introducing this bill. Senator JOSEPH LIEBERMAN, a Democrat, became the cosponsor today, as well, and both spoke at this press conference. What I did not know until I walked into the press conference was that yet another Senator had on this very first day of the introduction of the bill come on, Senator SPENCER ABRAHAM.

Mr. Speaker, I sent my "dear colleague" letters out yesterday to Mem-

bers of the House, and I am pleased to say that they are beginning to come on. Mr. ARMEY has become a cosponsor today, and I am very grateful for that. The Chairs of both caucuses, Republican and Democrat in this House, support the bill.

Why is there such support for this bill? In large part, it is because the District is trying to do it the old fashioned way. This tax break will not come to the Government of the District of Columbia but to the residents, who with their own money, will revive their own city.

The District is the only city in the United States that pays for State, county and municipal functions. When it was a city of 800,000 people, as it was when I was a kid growing up in this town, it could do that. Now it is a town of half a million people, and it simply cannot pay for Medicare, cannot pay for a State prison, cannot pay for a State university all by itself.

The District is the only city in the United States that is barred by the Congress of the United States from enacting a commuter tax, so all the commuters come here, use the services my residents provide and do not leave one thin dime.

The District is the only jurisdiction that flies the American flag, where Federal income taxes are paid by the residents, but they have no voting representation in the House or in the Senate. That, my friends, I am sure you will agree, is un-American.

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We would still pay Federal income taxes under my bill, but we would not be second per capita in Federal income taxes, as we are today. When you join our local taxes with our Federal taxes, the residents of the District of Columbia are the highest taxed residents in the United States.

The District does not say "Give me some more money." The District says, the House and the Senate, the Democrats and the Republicans, yes, and the administration, all have their versions of tax cuts. If taxes are to be cut, let the cutting start in the capital of the United States, which does not have full representation, and therefore is taxed without representation, in the capital of the United States, which is spiraling downward, and needs to give people an incentive to remain in this beautiful city.

This will not be the capital we are all proud of if we let it continue to go down. Please sign on to the DC Economic Recovery Act, as three Senators have today.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed a concurrent resolution of the following title, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 60. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment or re-

cess of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 104-52, as amended by Public Law 104-134, the Chair, on behalf of the majority leader, appoints the Senator from Iowa, Mr. GRASSLEY; David L. Keating, of Maryland; J. Fred Kubik, of Kansas; and Mark L. McConaghy, of Washington, D.C., to the National Commission on Restructuring the Internal Revenue Service.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 104-52, as amended by Public Law 104-134, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic leader, appoints the Senator from Nebraska, Mr. KERREY; and Fred T. Goldberg, Jr., of Missouri, to the National Commission on Restructuring the Internal Revenue Service.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington, DC, May 13, 1996.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,  
Office of the Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER GINGRICH: Pursuant to the provisions of the Public Buildings Act of 1959, I am transmitting resolutions approved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on May 9, 1996.

With kind personal regards, I remain  
Sincerely,

BUD SHUSTER,  
Chairman.

There was no objection.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington, DC, May 13, 1996.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,  
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Enclosed are copies of resolutions adopted on March 7, 1996 and May 9, 1996 by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. A copy of the resolutions are being transmitted to the Department of the Army.

With kind personal regards, I remain  
Sincerely,

BUD SHUSTER,  
Chairman.

There was no objection.